
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Free-Response Question 2

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
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Question 2: Quantitative Analysis**5 points**

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- (A) Using data in the table, identify the country with the lowest civil liberties score on the Democracy Index. **1 point**

Acceptable identifications include:

- China

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- (B) Using data in the table, describe a trend in civil liberties in Nigeria from 2006 to 2021. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Nigeria's index score increased from 3.5 in 2006 to 4.1 in 2021.
- The trend in civil liberties from 2006 to 2021 is that Nigeria's index score for the protection of civil liberties consistently increased.
- Nigeria's civil liberties score increased during this time period.

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- (C) Describe civil liberties. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Civil liberties
 - are freedoms protected by the government
 - are freedoms protected from the government
 - may include the protection of:
 - freedom of speech
 - freedom of religion
 - freedom of the press

-
- (D) Using data in the table, draw a conclusion about the protection of civil liberties in Mexico between 2006 and 2021. **1 point**

Acceptable conclusions include:

- Civil liberties declined in Mexico because the government imposed restrictions on citizens.
- Civil liberties declined in Mexico because the government failed to provide protection to citizens.

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- (E) Explain how China's civil liberties score relates to governmental transparency. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- The lack of transparency by the Chinese government enables the abuse of civil liberties in China.
- The low civil liberties score indicates that a lack of civil liberties in China makes it difficult for citizens to determine what the government is doing.
- Civil liberties in China are not very well protected. The Chinese government owns and censors the media, which means it does not provide information to citizens, leading to less transparency.

Total for question 2 5 points

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 4

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- a) Based on the data from the given table, the country with the lowest civil liberties score is China, with 1.2 in 2006, 1.5 in 2013, and 0.9 in 2021. The major drop in 2021 is most likely a result of covid and the Hong-Kong protests.
- b) Within Nigeria, civil liberties have increased from 2006 to 2021. Nigeria is modeled a lot like the United States; however, they have only recently started to democratize around the country. When the public feels like they are receiving rights and liberties, they have an increase in their civil liberties score.
- c) Based on Nigeria's and China's civil liberties scores, civil liberties can be concluded as liberties and rights given to the public that protects them from the government. Civil liberties can usually be found in a country's constitution.
- d) Protection of civil liberties includes the government making sure that they allow the public to have these protections from themselves. Based on the data given from the table, Mexico has had a decrease in civil liberties, which can be tied back to one of their most current issues; drug cartels and trafficking. As police ~~and~~ and government officials are being bribed with money to follow rule by law, they are voluntarily blind to the crimes presented to them. This causes the people and public to feel as if they have no protection.

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Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

provided by the government, which will only decrease a country's civil liberties score.

a) By looking at China's civil liberty score, it is safe to say that the people are not protected by the government, but rather controlled by them. In a country, if their civil liberty score is low, then their control and supervision on the public are high. China's low civil liberty score can indicate that the government controls everything they see, do, watch, and believe in, which means the transparency for China's government is very low.

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- **Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- A) the country with the lowest civil liberties score would be China. B) A trend in civil liberties in Nigeria from 2006-2021 is a steady increase. C) Civil liberties are the rights of citizens and how much freedom they have from government control. D) It can be concluded that civil liberties in Mexico from 2006-2021 were not protected fully due to the decline. E) China's civil liberties score is much lower than that of other countries which correlates with the level of government transparency.

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● **Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A. The country with the lowest civil liberties score on the Democracy Index is China

B. A trend in civil liberties in Nigeria from 2006-2021 was it grew .3 every 7 years according to the chart.

C. Civil liberties is the rights that the citizens of that country or state.

D. The protection of civil liberties in Mexico have decreased between the years of 2006 ~~and~~ through 2021. This may be due to the fact that many people have been trying to come to the U.S because there rights are being limited.

E. Chinas score relates to governmental transparency because there government has shown the public how fast they take away there citizens right so therefore is no surprise ~~and~~ at there score.

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Question 2

Quantitative Analysis

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' ability to interpret, describe, and draw conclusions from quantitative data about civil liberties across the four AP countries presented in a table. In addition, the question was designed to assess students' ability to draw connections between civil liberties and political transparency. Students were presented with a table on civil liberties in four countries between 2006–2021. Students were expected to accurately identify the lowest civil liberties score on the graph and to describe a trend in Nigeria's civil liberties score. Students were then tasked with describing civil liberties. The next two prompts required students to synthesize their analysis of the data in the graph with their knowledge of course content. First, they were asked to draw a conclusion about Mexico's civil liberties score. Finally, students were asked to explain the relationship between civil liberties and governmental transparency in China.

Sample: 2A

Score: 5

(A) The response earned 1 point for identifying “China” as the country with the lowest civil liberties score on the Democracy Index.

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing a trend in Nigerian civil liberties by stating, “Within Nigeria, civil liberties have increased from 2006 to 2021.”

(C) The response earned 1 point for describing civil liberties as “liberties and rights given to the public that protects them from the government.”

(D) The response earned 1 point for drawing a conclusion about the protection of civil liberties in Mexico by stating, “Protection of civil liberties includes the government making sure that they allow the public to have these protections,” followed by, “As police and government officials are being bribed with money to follow rule by law, they are voluntarily blind to the crimes presented to them. This causes the people and public to feel as if they have no protection.”

(E) The response earned 1 point for explaining how China's civil liberty score relates to government transparency by stating, “China's low civil liberty score can indicate that the government controls everything that they see, do, watch, and believe in, which means the transparency for China's government is very low.”

Sample: 2B

Score: 3

(A) The response earned 1 point for identifying “China” as the country with the lowest civil liberties score on the Democracy Index.

Question 2 (continued)

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing a trend in Nigerian civil liberties by stating, “A trend in civil liberties in Nigeria from 2006–2021 is a steady increase.”

(C) The response earned 1 point for describing civil liberties as “the rights of citizens and how much freedom they have from government control.”

(D) The response did not earn a point for drawing a conclusion about the protection of civil liberties in Mexico. The response stated, “It can be concluded that civil liberties in Mexico from 2006–2021 were not protected fully,” which did not demonstrate understanding beyond correctly identifying the trendline.

(E) The response did not earn a point for explaining how China’s civil liberty score relates to government transparency. The response stated, “China’s civil liberties score is much lower than that of other countries which correlates with the level of government transparency,” which does not explain the relationship between civil liberties and transparency.

Sample: 2C

Score: 2

(A) The response earned 1 point for identifying “China” as the country with the lowest civil liberties score on the Democracy Index.

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing a trend in Nigerian civil liberties by stating, “A trend in civil liberties in Nigeria from 2006–2021 was it grew.”

(C) The response did not earn a point for describing civil liberties. The response stated, “Civil liberties is the rights that the citizens of that country or state,” which does not correctly describe civil liberties.

(D) The response did not earn a point for drawing a conclusion about the protection of civil liberties in Mexico. The response stated, “This may be due to the fact that many people have been trying to come to the U.S because there rights are being limited.” This response does not offer a relevant conclusion about the trend of civil liberty scores in Mexico.

(E) The response did not earn a point for explaining how China’s civil liberty score relates to government transparency. The response stated, “because there government has shown the public how fast they take away there citizens right so therefore is no surprise at there score.” The response does not explain a relationship between transparency and civil liberties.